Preparing for your Gastric Emptying Scan

Check in Date and Time: ________________________________

Where will I have the test done?

University Hospital
600 Highland Ave
Madison, WI 53792

Adults: When you get to the hospital, go through the lobby to 2nd floor atrium elevators, then up to 3rd floor. Follow the signs to Radiology.

Pediatrics: Please go to American Family Children's Hospital at 1675 Highland Ave, check-in at the Diagnostic and Therapy Center. You will be taken to University Hospital for your scan.

If you need to reschedule the test, call the Radiology Department at 608-263-9729.

What is it?

The gastric emptying scan is a test to look at how quickly food leaves your stomach.

How should I get ready for the test?

- Do not eat or drink any food or liquids for 6 hours before your check in time.
- If you smoke, do not smoke the morning of the test.
- Two days before the test your doctor may have you stop taking these medicines.
  o Some may affect how quickly food moves through your stomach, such as, Reglan (metoclopramide), Motilium (domperidone), Bentyl (dicyclomine), Donnatal, Zelnorm (tegaserod), erythromycin
  o Pain medicines, such as codeine, Percocet (oxycodeone), Tylenol #3, OxyContin, Percodan, fentanyl patch, methadone, Vicodin (hydrocodone), Ultram (tramadol) can also affect your stomach.
  o Do not take any laxatives the day before or the day of the test.
  o Your doctor may not want you to stop certain medicines even if they are listed above. They may want to see how they are working.
  o A pharmacist will review your medicines and then if needed will contact your doctor.
• If you have diabetes, talk to your primary doctor about how to manage your medicine.
• You can take other medicines with a sip of water the day of the test. Take these at least 2 hours before your arrive at the hospital for the test.
• If you are pregnant, think you might be pregnant or breast feeding, please tell us. This test should not be done if you are pregnant or breast-feeding except under special circumstances.

What can I expect during the test?

The test will take about 4-5 hours. (Infants ~2 1/2 hours)

You will be given a small meal of cooked egg whites, toast and water. The food you eat has a small amount of a radioactive substance in it. The radioactive substance has no taste and the food tastes normal. *If you have a confirmed allergy to eggs or wheat (gluten), tell us and a different meal will be given to you.*

After eating the meal, pictures will be taken of your stomach over the next 4 hours. Most likely you will be standing. If you cannot stand for 5 minutes please let us know. You will be able to move around and sit up in between the picture-taking. You may want to bring a book or something else to help pass the time. Do not eat or drink any thing other than what we give you during the test.

Infants: will have formula instead of the described meal and the pictures will be taken over ~2 hours.

**After the test is done:**

You can return home and begin your regular diet and medicines.

For any questions, please call Radiology at **608-263-9729**. Toll free **1-800-323-8942**; ask for Radiology.
References:


